



Caring Families Coalition

713 Main St. Rear Bldg.
Willimantic CT 06226

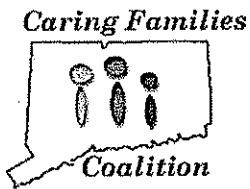
Phone: 860-539-6151
Fax: 860-524-0738

Name: Alyssa Goodin
Town: Manchester, CT

Hello. My name is Alyssa Goodin and I am here today representing the Caring Families Coalition and also as a student of social work at Eastern Connecticut State University. I am a resident of Manchester, CT and I am here for both professional and personal reasons to testify in support of Senate Bill 1 an Act Increasing Access to Affordable, Quality Health Care.

I am an employee of the Omega House in Willimantic, CT. We are a housing program for people living with HIV or AIDS. The residents, at times, have very serious health complications where they need to be hospitalized. However, these wonderful people I work with do not have quality healthcare coverage so often they are not given the care they need. Recently one of my residents, who is covered by SAGA went to the hospital in need of a serious heart surgery. They did not perform the surgery because he weighed too little and would have died on the table. The hospital sent him home far too early. He has not been able to gain any weight and he clearly needs to be in a nursing home. However, SAGA will not pay for that nursing home so we try to take the best care of him we can, but we are not equipped for this level of care. He has been home for weeks now and has only gained one pound. It is difficult to watch someone in that kind of pain, knowing they should be receiving more care than we can provide. We have made healthcare a market commodity, a privilege, that you must buy. As a result good, hardworking people like my residents suffer. Healthcare should be a right for each and every one of our citizens.

This is an issue that hits close to home for me. I have epilepsy and once I graduate college I don't know how I will pay for my medication without insurance. Also, my younger sister Katie was diagnosed with bipolar type one when she was fifteen and it has been an uphill battle ever since. Fortunately, the medicine has helped to balance her and three days ago marked one year since she has



Caring Families Coalition

713 Main St. Rear Bldg.
Willimantic CT 06226

Phone: 860-539-6151

Fax: 860-524-0738

Alyssa Goodin, Page 2 of 2:

attempted suicide. This was an incredible accomplishment. When she turns nineteen she will lose her healthcare. Without her healthcare we can not afford her medications and without her medication she simply can not survive. My mother is here today to testify about our personal circumstances and why this issue directly affects our family.